

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4725

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13098

E.O. L1652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GW' PINT UR

SUBJ: BRITISH VIEWS ON SOVIET INTEREST IN FRG ELECTIONS

REF: BONN 13459

1. ACCORDING TO DAVID BEATTIE, ACTING HEAD, WEST EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, FCO, FCO DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT SOVIETS TO DATE ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EITHER SUPPORTING OR HARMING SPD IN FRG ELECTION CAMPAIGN. FCO DOUBTS THAT SOVIETS ARE BLIND TO REAL POSSIBILITY THAT KOHL AND CDU MIGHT COME OUT ON TOP IN WHAT BRITISH SEE AS A VERY CLOSE ELECTION.

2. QUESTIONED ABOUT APPARENT UPSURGE IN LAST FEW MONTHS OF SOVIET INTEREST IN BERLIN QUESTIONS (SEE SEPTTEL ON QA ANNIVERSARY PROPOSAL), BEATTIE SAID HE BELIEVES SOVIET ARE RESPONDING TO EVENTS IN TRADITIONAL FASHION. HE DOUBTS THAT SOVIETS ARE TAKING ANY INITIATIVES, BUT FINAL JUDGEMENT ON THIS QUESTION WOULD REQUIRE DETAILED RESEARC AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES. IT IS NOT HIS IMPRESSION (AND PRESUMABLY THAT OF FCO) THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN UPSURGE
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OF SOVIET INTEREST IN GERMAN QUESTIONS.

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT SOVIET INTEREST IN BRITISH POLITICS (STRONG SOVIET REACTION TO MRS. THATCHER'S JANUARY SPEECH, ETC.), BEATTIE SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF SIMILAR PHENOMENON IN REGARD TO WEST GERMAN POLITICS. HE SUSPECTS SOVIETS PROBABLY HAVE VIEWS ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE BRITISH, WHO BELIEVE SDP/FDP VICTORY IS BY NO MEANS ASSURED.

ARMSTRONG

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